ABSTRACT OF PROCEEDINGS

— OF THE —

FOURTEENTH ANNUAL CONVENTION

— OF THE —

CALIFORNIA

State Sabbath School Association,

HELD AT

Sacramento, May 10th, 11th and 12th, 1881.

The Fourteenth Annual Convention of the California State Sabbath School Association was held in Sacramento May 10th, 11th and 12th, 1881. A delightful excursion by steamer "Pride of the River" took delegations from San Francisco and the southern portions of the State to the meeting, the trip being enlivened and made profitable as well by music, addresses and prayer.

The Convention was held in the Congregational church. The opening exercises were a half hour's praise service, conducted by Mr. and Mrs. Stebbins, Mr. and Mrs. Thain, and Mr. Hyde, followed by a sermon from Bishop E. O. Haven. "Jesus our Saviour" was the theme of an inspiring discourse.

On Wednesday morning, after a praise service, Dr. Burrowes gave a half hour's Bible study of the 5th chapter of Revelation. Dr. McLean, of Oakland, was elected President of the Convention, and Herbert Folger Secretary. Late in the meetings of the Convention, Dr. McLean being detained from attendance, Dr. M. C. Briggs was elected in his place.

The Annual Report of the State Secretary, Rev. H. H. Rice, congratulated the Association on its firm establishment as one of the fixed religious institutions of the State, adverted to the responsibilities of its work, detailed the meetings and labors of the Executive Committee, and lamented that so little had been accomplished in the matter of progress in County and Township aux

iliary organizations, while finding occasion for satisfaction in the increased efficiency of such as are in existence. The Report discussed the absolute necessity of such organizations, the ease of their formation and maintenance, exhorted all the delegates in this Convention to go to their homes in all parts of the State purposed to establish these needed auxiliaries in every county and large town, and affirmed that we in California are far behind the Eastern States in all these matters. The Report further discussed the Yosemite chapel — its usefulness, the services held in it through the summer, its Sunday School, and its mission of blessing and peace. The debt yet remaining upon it, for which the members of the Committee are personally responsible, is reported at $500. The building itself is incomplete, being neither ceiled nor permanently seated. It ought to be finished and the debt paid. Subscription books are opened at the hotels in the Valley for this purpose.

The question of systematic revenue from the various schools of the State was adverted to, and, finally, the Secretary announced his withdrawal from the duties of an office which he has held for years, and to which he is unable to give the care and labor required for their suitable performance.

The Report was approved, with the expression of hearty thanks to the Secretary for his able and untiring efforts on behalf of the Association, and of deep regret that he should find it necessary to decline continuance in the office, in which he has so greatly served the cause.

The Annual Report of the Treasurer, Dr. R. E. Cole, showed receipts, $537.74; disbursements, $420.15; balance, $116.79; present entire indebtedness, $585. Later Reports showed the expenses of the present Convention $75; receipts from collections and from assessments on schools, $280; thus reducing the indebtedness to $380.

After these Reports had been received and acted on, Rev. T. K. Noble opened discussion on the theme, "Every Teacher a Pastor and every Class a Parish," followed in lively participation by many members of the Convention. "Visit the Scholars," "Get them to visit you," "Remember their Birth-days," "Interest yourself in their affairs," "Seek Conversion of every one of them," "Get the Help of the Parents," "Make the Class and its Exercises interesting," "Pray for and with the Scholars," "Get on the Plain of their Thought and Feeling," "Be a Boy to win a Boy," were some of the pertinent suggestions.

At 11 o'clock the topic, "Lesson Study by the Scholars—how promoted," was opened by Rev. A. S. Fiske, Rev. Mr. Finley, who was to have rendered this service, not appearing. "Get the Lesson thoroughly yourself," "Go about it early in the week," "Believe in the Intellectual Capacities of your Scholars," "Get the Parents to Study the Lesson with their Children," "Let all Officers and Teachers understand the School to be a Work Place," "The Scholar who comes unprepared must feel that he is out of the current of that School," "Above all, the Teacher must send every truth home as if it were to be *at once* acted on." General and practical discussion followed.

After recess, in the absence of Dr. Abbott, Mr. Geo. C. Stebbins opened the subject of "Inquirers and Young Christians—their Direction and Nurture." His excellent and practical suggestions were followed by an hour of brief remarks by various members of the body. Reports were then heard from the various town and county organizations. Six counties were reported as having

such organizations in active operation. Various members of the Executive Committee and of the Convention urged the importance of securing organizations in every county, and a list was made of those who would be expected to look after the matter in the various counties of the State, as follows: Amador—Rev. E. E. Dodge; Alameda—Dr. W. H. Craig; Butte—Gen. Bidwell; Calaveras—E. De Witt; Colusa—A. R. Sheriff; El Dorado—E. B. Conklin; Del Norte—Rev. J. W. Kuykindall; Tulare—Rev. F. A. Wales; Humboldt, T. S. Bonstell; Los Angeles—Hon. R. Whiting; Marin—S. F. Barstow; Mendocino—Rev. H. B. McBride; Modoc—Wm. Brier; Merced—Rev. J. K. P. Price; Lake—Rev. S. G. Reynolds; San Joaquin—C. M. Canister.

Sectional meetings followed, one for pastors and officers, led by Elder and Superintendent J. B. Roberts, and one for teachers, led by Elder R. J. Trumbull.

At the evening session, after a delightful praise service, Rev. W. J. Smith addressed the Convention on "The Salvation of the Young Men of California," followed, as usual, by a considerable number of brief speeches. The evening closed with a liberal offering to the treasury of the Association.

The morning session of Thursday was opened with a Bible reading by Dr. Burrowes, on the 19th Psalm, dwelling on "the Character of God;" "the Perfection of his law," and "His Manifestation in life and law to lead us to the Redeemer."

The topic, "The Teacher's work in prayer and study, was opened by Rev. S. M. Schofield, and an interesting discussion followed an interesting address.

"The Teachers' Work in the Class and in the Home" was discussed in an impromptu opening address by Dr. D. E. Bushnell and by a large number of members of Convention.

The Convention then voted to take a recess till 2:30, in order that members might accept the kind invitation of Mrs. Crocker to visit her art gallery.

After recess, "The Necessity of a High Standard of Teaching" was discussed in an opening address by Rev. Chas. A. Savage—"Christ and his Teachings" the theme—all life for illustration—the great aim not salvation, but a Christ-like life.

Miss J. M. Dickinson read a carefully prepared paper, accompanied by illustrations on the blackboard, on "The Primary Department, Arrangement of Rooms, Methods of Reading, Helps, etc." Miss Dickinson's address was received with enthusiasm, and the subject further discussed at large.

A question drawer was then opened, and a variety of questions satisfactorily answered by Drs. Briggs and Gibson.

The Secretary offered a statistical report, which showed that he had sent blanks to all pastors and superintendents whose addresses he could secure, and had received 107 responses. These came from 29 Presbyterian schools, 25 Congregational, 21 Methodist Episcopal, 29 Union, 6 United Brethren, 4 Baptist, 1 United Presbyterian and 1 Cumberland. The report was accepted.

At the evening session various items of business were transacted, after which Rev. Robert Mackenzie preached on "The Holy Spirit," showing:

1. That it is the distinctive doctrine of the New Dispensation. St. John 16:7; and St. John 14: 16.

2. That it is the Holy Spirit that makes this Dispensation transcendently glorious. 2 Cor. 3: 7–8; 1 Cor. 2: 4.

3. That the Holy Spirit is the author of all *life*.—1. Physical, Gen. 1: 2; Spiritual, 2 Pet. 1: 3.

4. The Holy Spirit is the source of all *power*—material, mental and moral. It is He who enables us to apprehend (2 Cor. 3:5) and to communicate truth (Micah 3:8).

At the close of this discourse the convention adjourned.

During its sessions resolutions were passed in favor of such change in the boundaries of Yosemite Park as should unite its two separate sections; thanking Bros. Rice and Searby for their faithful services; expressing gratitude to all persons concerned in the entertainment and facilities of the Convention, viz., the valuable services of Mr. and Mrs. Stebbins, Mr. and Mrs. Thain and Mr. Hyde in song; determining to publish abstract of proceedings; commending the management of the excursion by the steamer "Pride of the River;" and declaring in favor of total abstinence instruction in all the Sabbath Schools of the State.

Officers for the ensuing year were elected as follows: President, M. C. Briggs, D. D.; State Secretary, Dr. W. H. Craig; State Treasurer, Dr. R. E. Cole; Executive Committee, M. M. Gibson, D. D., Chas. Geddes, S. E. Dutton, Rev. T. H. B. Anderson for three years, Rev. A. S. Fiske for two years.

Stockton was fixed upon as the next place of meeting.

In the intervals of the Convention, the Executive Committee had numerous and important meetings.

The spirit of the Convention was admirable, its ability unquestionable, and its results were at least a quickening of spirit in the sabbath school enterprise of the State, and a good step towards a more efficient organization in the town and county work.

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